

Poincaré Invariance of a Quantized Duality Symmetric Theory*

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The noncovariant duality symmetric action put forward by Schwarz-Sen is quantized by means of the Dirac bracket quantization procedure. The resulting quantum theory is shown to be, nevertheless, relativistically invariant.

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In Ref. [1], Schwarz and Sen proposed a class of gauge invariant actions which are also invariant under discrete duality transformations. In particular, the duality symmetric generalization of the four dimensional Maxwell action involves two gauge potentials $A^{\mu,a}$ ($0 \leq \mu \leq 3$, $1 \leq a \leq 2$) and reads [2]

$$S = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x (B^{a,i} \epsilon_{ab} E^{b,i} + B^{a,i} B^{a,i}) , \quad (1)$$

where

$$E^{a,i} = -F^{a,0i} = -(\partial^0 A^{a,i} - \partial^i A^{a,0}) , \quad (2a)$$

$$B^{a,i} = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{ijk} F_{jk}^a = -\epsilon^{ijk} \partial_j A_k^a , \quad (2b)$$

and $1 \leq i, j, k \leq 3$. S is separately invariant under the local gauge transformations

$$A^{a,0} \rightarrow A^{a,0} + \Psi^a , \quad (3a)$$

$$A^{a,i} \rightarrow A^{a,i} - \partial^i \Lambda^a , \quad (3b)$$

and under the discrete duality transformations

$$A^{a,\mu} \rightarrow \epsilon_{ab} A^{b,\mu} . \quad (4)$$

The use of the equations of motion,

$$\epsilon^{ijk} \epsilon_{ab} \partial_0 \partial_j A_k^b + \partial_j (\partial^j A^{a,i} - \partial^i A^{a,j}) = 0 , \quad (5)$$

allows for the elimination from S of one of the gauge fields, the action for the remaining one being the conventional Maxwell action.

In terms of the gauge potentials, the Lagrangian density in (1) reads

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{jki} (\partial_j A_k^a) \epsilon_{ab} (\partial_0 A_i^b) - \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{jki} (\partial_j A_k^a) \epsilon_{ab} (\partial_i A_0^b) - \frac{1}{4} F^{a,jk} F_{jk}^a . \quad (6)$$

Clearly, \mathcal{L} is not a Lorentz scalar. Some alternatives have been suggested to reconcile, already at the classical level, duality and Lorentz symmetries [3,4]. In this paper we demonstrate that the quantum field theory arising from (6) is, nevertheless, relativistically invariant.

The present work can be summarized as follows. We start by presenting the Hamiltonian formulation of the model before gauge fixing. After choosing the Coulomb

gauge, the theory is quantized by means of the Dirac bracket quantization procedure [5–8]. The resulting quantum theory turns out to be local and quantum mechanically consistent. The next step consists in building a set of composite operators which will be shown to verify the Dirac-Schwinger algebra [9,10]. As a consequence, a set of charges obeying the Poincaré algebra exist and can immediately be constructed. We prove, afterwards, that the full set of composite operators obeying the Dirac-Schwinger algebra are the components of a second-rank symmetric tensor. The transformation properties of the basic fields under the Poincaré group are also studied and serve to demonstrate that the noncovariant Coulomb gauge condition is preserved under Lorentz boosts. We end by arguing that our results can be generalized for an arbitrary canonical gauge.

The canonical Hamiltonian (H_c) following from (6) reads

$$H_c = \int d^3x \left[\frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{jki} (\partial_j A_k^a) \epsilon_{ab} (\partial_i A_0^b) + \frac{1}{4} F^{a,jk} F_{jk}^a \right] . \quad (7)$$

Furthermore, the system possesses the primary constraints

$$\Omega_0^a \equiv \pi_0^a \approx 0 , \quad (8a)$$

$$\Omega_i^a \equiv \pi_i^a + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ab} \epsilon_{ijk} \partial^j A^{b,k} \approx 0 , \quad (8b)$$

where we have designated by π_μ^a the momentum canonically conjugate to $A^{a,\mu}$. Then, the total Hamiltonian (H') is given by $H' = H_c + \int d^3x (u^{a,0} \Omega_0^a + u^{a,i} \Omega_i^a)$, where the u 's are Lagrange multipliers. Persistence in time of Ω_0^a produces neither secondary constraints nor determines the Lagrange multipliers. On the other hand, persistence in time of the primary constraints $\{\Omega_i^a\}$ does not lead to the existence of secondary constraints but determines partially the Lagrange multipliers $\{u_i^a\}$. Indeed, since the Poisson bracket [12]

$$[\Omega_i^a(\vec{x}), \Omega_j^b(\vec{y})]_P = -\epsilon_{ab} \epsilon_{ijk} \partial_x^j \delta(\vec{x} - \vec{y}) \quad (9)$$

does not vanish, $\dot{\Omega}_i^a = [\Omega_i^a, H']_P \approx 0$ yields $u^{a,i} = \epsilon_{ab} (B^{b,i} - \partial^i \phi^b)$, where ϕ^a is an arbitrary scalar. Thus,

$$\Omega^a(\vec{x}) = \partial^i \Omega_i^a(\vec{x}) \approx 0 \quad (10)$$

and $\Omega_0^a \approx 0$ are the first-class constraints in the theory [11].

To isolate the second-class constraints from (8b), we split Ω_i^a into longitudinal (L) and transversal (T) components, namely, $\Omega_i^a = \Omega_{Li}^a + \Omega_{Ti}^a$, where $\Omega_{Li}^a = -\frac{\partial_i \partial^j}{\nabla^2} \Omega_j^a$, $\Omega_{Ti}^a = \left(g_i^j + \frac{\partial_i \partial^j}{\nabla^2} \right) \Omega_j^a$ and $\nabla^2 \equiv -\partial_j \partial^j$. The first-class constraint (10) only involves the longitudinal components Ω_{Li}^a and states that these components vanish individually. Then, the second-class constraints are

$$\Omega_{Ti}^a = \pi_{Ti}^a + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ab} \epsilon_{ijk} \partial^j A_T^{b,k} \approx 0 . \quad (11)$$

The determination of the constraint structure is over. It only remains to be mentioned that the gauge potential $A^{a,\mu}$, when acted upon by the generator of infinitesimal gauge transformations, $G = \int d^3x (\Psi^a \Omega_0^a + \Lambda^a \Omega^a)$, undergoes the change $A^{a,\mu} \rightarrow A^{a,\mu} + \delta A^{a,\mu}$ with $\delta A^{a,0} = [A^{a,0}, G]_P = \Psi^a$ and $\delta A^{a,i} = [A^{a,i}, G]_P = -\partial^i \Lambda^a$, in agreement with (3).

We shall next quantize the model by means of the Dirac bracket quantization procedure [5–8]. To this end, we start by fixing the gauge through the subsidiary conditions

$$\chi^{a,0} \equiv A^{a,0} \approx 0 \quad , \quad (12a)$$

$$\chi^a \equiv \partial_i A^{a,i} \approx 0 \quad . \quad (12b)$$

The formulation of the quantum dynamics of a gauge theory in the Coulomb (physical) gauge is of importance for understanding its structural aspects. The fact that the Coulomb condition and $A^{a,0} \approx 0$ are, when acting together, accessible gauge conditions is a peculiarity of the model under analysis. This is not the case, for instance, in quantum electrodynamics.

Since the full set of constraints and gauge conditions is, by construction, second-class, Dirac-brackets with respect to them can be introduced in the usual manner. Afterwards, the phase-space variables are promoted to operators obeying an equal-time commutator algebra which is to be abstracted from the corresponding Dirac bracket algebra, the constraints and gauge conditions thereby translating into strong operator relations. This is the Dirac bracket quantization procedure, which presently yields [13]

$$[A_T^{a,i}(\vec{x}), A_T^{b,j}(\vec{y})] = -i\epsilon_{ab}\epsilon^{ijk}\frac{\partial_k^x}{\nabla^2}\delta(\vec{x}-\vec{y}) \quad , \quad (13a)$$

$$[A_T^{a,i}(\vec{x}), \pi_{Tj}^b(\vec{y})] = \frac{i}{2}\delta_{ab}\left(g_j^i + \frac{\partial_x^i \partial_j^x}{\nabla^2}\right)\delta(\vec{x}-\vec{y}) \quad , \quad (13b)$$

$$[\pi_{Ti}^a(\vec{x}), \pi_{Tj}^b(\vec{y})] = \frac{i}{4}\epsilon_{ab}\epsilon_{ijk}\partial_x^k\delta(\vec{x}-\vec{y}) \quad . \quad (13c)$$

As for the quantum mechanical Hamiltonian (H), it can be read off from (7) after taking into account that constraints and gauge conditions act, within the algebra (13), as strong operator identities. Then

$$H = \frac{1}{4} \int d^3x F^{a,jk} F_{jk}^a = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^3x B^{a,j} B_j^a \quad . \quad (14)$$

One may wonder on whether the right hand side of (14) is afflicted by ordering ambiguities. However, this not so, since

$$[B^{a,i}(\vec{x}), B^{b,j}(\vec{y})] = i\epsilon_{ab}\epsilon^{ijk}\partial_k^x\delta(\vec{x}-\vec{y}) \quad , \quad (15)$$

as follows from (13a) and (2b).

The Hamilton equations of motion arising from (13) and (14) are

$$\mathcal{D}_{ik}^{(-)ab} A_T^{b,k} = 0 , \quad (16a)$$

$$\partial_0 \pi_{T_i}^a = \frac{1}{2} \partial^j F_{ji}^a , \quad (16b)$$

where

$$\mathcal{D}_{ik}^{(\pm)ab} \equiv g_{ik} \delta_{ab} \partial_0 \pm \epsilon_{ab} \epsilon_{ijk} \partial^j . \quad (17)$$

Notice that, in the Coulomb gauge, the Lagrange equation of motion (5) can be casted as

$$\epsilon^{jli} \partial_l \mathcal{D}_{ik}^{(-)ab} A_T^{b,k} = 0 \implies \mathcal{D}_{ik}^{(-)ab} A_T^{b,k} = \partial_i \xi^a . \quad (18)$$

Since $\partial^i \mathcal{D}_{ik}^{(-)ab} A_T^{b,k} = 0$, the function ξ^a must verify $\nabla^2 \xi^a = 0$ but is otherwise arbitrary. Thus, the Lagrangian and the Hamiltonian formulations lead to equivalent equations of motions only after the introduction of a regularity requirement at spatial infinity. This situation resembles that encountered in connection with the theory of the two-dimensional $(x^0, x^1, x^\pm = 1/\sqrt{2}(x^0 \pm x^1))$ self-dual field (Φ) put forward by Floreanini and Jackiw [15,16], where the equations of motion in the Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formulations turn out to be, respectively, $\partial_1 \partial_- \Phi = 0$ and $\partial_- \Phi = 0$. We also recall that in order to solve $\partial_- \Phi = 0$ one starts by realizing that $\partial_- \Phi = 0 \implies \partial_+ \partial_- \Phi = 0 \implies \square \Phi = 0$. The solutions of $\partial_- \Phi = 0$ are then contained in the field of solutions of $\square \Phi = 0$. We shall follow here a similar approach, since

$$\mathcal{D}_{ik}^{(-)ab} A_T^{b,k} = 0 \implies \mathcal{D}^{(+)ca, li} \mathcal{D}_{ik}^{(-)ab} A_T^{b,k} = 0 \implies \square A_T^{c, l} = 0 . \quad (19)$$

The solving of $\square A_T^{a, i} = 0$ leads to

$$A^{a, i}(x) = \int d^3 y D(x-y) \overset{\leftrightarrow 0}{\partial}_y A_T^{a, i}(y) , \quad (20)$$

where $D(x-y)$ is the zero-mass Pauli-Jordan delta function and $(A \overset{\leftrightarrow k}{\partial} B) \equiv A \partial^k B - B \partial^k A$. From this last equation and (13) follows that the field commutator at different space-time points reads

$$[A_T^{a, i}(x), A_T^{b, j}(y)] = i \left[\delta_{ab} \left(g^{ij} + \frac{\partial_x^i \partial_x^j}{\nabla_x^2} \right) - \epsilon_{ab} \epsilon^{ijk} \frac{\partial_x^i \partial_x^j}{\nabla_x^2} \right] D(x-y) . \quad (21)$$

By applying $\mathcal{D}_{ki}^{(-)ca}(x)$ to both sides of (21), one can check that the field configurations entering the just mentioned commutator are in fact solutions of (16a). As known, the function $D(x-y)$ can be given as the sum of a positive plus a negative frequency part and we, therefore, can write

$$A_T^{a, i}(x) = A_T^{a, i(+)}(x) + A_T^{a, i(-)}(x) , \quad (22)$$

where

$$A_T^{a,i(\pm)}(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int \frac{d^3k}{\sqrt{2|\vec{k}|}} \exp[\pm i(|\vec{k}|x^0 - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x})] \sum_{\lambda=1}^2 \varepsilon_{\lambda}^{a,i}(\vec{k}) a_{\lambda}^{(\pm)}(\vec{k}) \quad (23)$$

and $\varepsilon_{\lambda}^{a,i}(\vec{k})$, $\lambda = 1, 2$, are unit norm polarization vectors. By going back with (23) into (21) one obtains

$$\sum_{\lambda, \lambda'=1}^2 \varepsilon_{\lambda}^{a,i}(\vec{k}) \varepsilon_{\lambda'}^{b,j}(\vec{k}') \left[a_{\lambda}^{(-)}(\vec{k}), a_{\lambda'}^{(+)}(\vec{k}') \right] = \left[-\delta_{ab} \left(g^{ij} + \frac{k^i k^j}{|\vec{k}|} \right) + \epsilon_{ab} \epsilon^{ijkl} \frac{k_l}{|\vec{k}|} \right] \delta(\vec{k} - \vec{k}') , \quad (24)$$

while all others commutators vanish. The polarization vectors are to be found by replacing (23) into the gauge condition (12b) and the equation of motion (16a). In this way we arrive, respectively, to $k_i \varepsilon_{\lambda}^{a,i}(\vec{k}) = 0$ and

$$\Sigma_{ij}^{ab}(\vec{k}) \varepsilon_{\lambda}^{b,j} = 0 , \quad (25)$$

where

$$\Sigma_{ij}^{ab}(\vec{k}) \equiv g_{ij} \delta_{ab} k_0 - \epsilon_{ab} \epsilon_{ilj} k^l . \quad (26)$$

The vanishing of the determinant of the matrix Σ_{ij}^{ab} is a necessary and sufficient condition for the homogeneous system of equations in (25) to have solution different from the trivial one $\varepsilon_{\lambda}^{b,j} = 0$. In the present case this determinant is proportional to k^2 and its vanishing merely states that the theory only propagates zero-mass particles. Furthermore, (25) also implies that $\varepsilon_{\lambda}^{a,i} \Sigma_{ij}^{ab} \varepsilon_{\lambda}^{b,j} = 0$. This nontrivial relationship among the polarization vectors associated with different gauge potentials can be casted as

$$\sum_{\lambda=1}^2 \vec{\varepsilon}_{\lambda}^a(\vec{k}) \times \vec{\varepsilon}_{\lambda}^b(\vec{k}) = -2 \epsilon_{ab} \frac{\vec{k}}{|\vec{k}|} . \quad (27)$$

On the other hand, the Coulomb gauge polarization vectors span, by construction, the space orthogonal to \vec{k} , i.e.,

$$\sum_{\lambda=1}^2 \varepsilon_{\lambda}^{a,i}(\vec{k}) \varepsilon_{\lambda}^{a,j}(\vec{k}) = - \left(g^{ij} + \frac{k^i k^j}{|\vec{k}|^2} \right) . \quad (28)$$

By using (27) and (28) we can solve at once for the commutator in (24) and find

$$\left[a_{\lambda}^{(-)}(\vec{k}), a_{\lambda'}^{(+)}(\vec{k}') \right] = \delta_{\lambda\lambda'} \delta(\vec{k} - \vec{k}') . \quad (29)$$

Thus the space of states is, as expected, a Fock space with positive definite metric.

Hence, the quantization of the Schwarz-Sen model has led to a local and physically sensible quantum field theory. Our next task is to demonstrate that this quantum theory is also relativistically invariant.

We are therefore looking for a set of composite operators $\{\Theta_{\mu\nu}\}$ which may serve as Poincaré densities. By

experience, we try to build them according to the following rules

$$\Theta_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu} + \partial^\lambda \psi_{\underline{\lambda\mu\nu}} , \quad (30)$$

where

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial^\mu A^{a,\rho})} \partial_\nu A^{a,\rho} - g_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L} , \quad (31)$$

$$\psi_{\underline{\lambda\mu\nu}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(S_{\underline{\lambda\mu\nu}} + S_{\underline{\nu\mu\lambda}} + S_{\underline{\lambda\nu\mu}} \right) , \quad (32)$$

$$S_{\underline{\lambda\mu\nu}} = - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial^\nu A^{a,\alpha})} \mathcal{A}_{\underline{\lambda\mu\beta}}^\alpha A^{a,\beta} , \quad (33)$$

and $\mathcal{A}_{\underline{\lambda\mu\beta}}^\alpha = g_\lambda^\alpha g_{\mu\beta} - g_\mu^\alpha g_{\lambda\beta}$. Clearly, ψ , S and \mathcal{A} are antisymmetric under the exchange of the underlined indices. These are, of course, the standard rules for constructing the symmetric (Belinfante) energy-momentum tensor. However, we can not yet decide on whether or not Θ is a tensor [14]. By bringing (6) into (31) and (33) one obtains

$$\Theta_{00} = -\frac{1}{2} B^{a,i} B_i^a , \quad (34a)$$

$$\Theta_{0i} = \Theta_{i0} = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{ab} B^{a,j} B^{b,k} , \quad (34b)$$

$$\Theta_{ij} = \Theta_{ji} = -B_i^a B_j^a + g_{ij} B^{a,l} B_l^a . \quad (34c)$$

Thus, Θ is symmetric and free of ordering ambiguities.

We look next for the equal-time commutator algebra obeyed by the components of Θ . According to (34), this algebra is fully determined by the commutator (15). In particular, one can corroborate that

$$[\Theta^{00}(x^0, \vec{x}), \Theta^{00}(x^0, \vec{y})] = -i \{ \Theta^{0k}(x^0, \vec{x}) + \Theta^{0k}(x^0, \vec{y}) \} \partial_k^x \delta(\vec{x} - \vec{y}) , \quad (35a)$$

$$[\Theta^{00}(x^0, \vec{x}), \Theta^{0k}(x^0, \vec{y})] = -i \{ \Theta^{kj}(x^0, \vec{x}) - g^{kj} \Theta^{00}(x^0, \vec{y}) \} \partial_j^x \delta(\vec{x} - \vec{y}) , \quad (35b)$$

$$[\Theta^{0k}(x^0, \vec{x}), \Theta^{0j}(x^0, \vec{y})] = i \{ \Theta^{0k}(x^0, \vec{y}) \partial_x^j + \Theta^{0j}(x^0, \vec{x}) \partial_x^k \} \delta(\vec{x} - \vec{y}) , \quad (35c)$$

which is just the Dirac-Schwinger algebra [9]. As it is well known [9], this guarantees that the charges

$$P^\mu \equiv \int d^3x \Theta^{0\mu} , \quad (36a)$$

$$J^{\mu\nu} \equiv \int d^3x (\Theta^{0\mu} x^\nu - \Theta^{0\nu} x^\mu) , \quad (36b)$$

obey the Poincaré algebra, i.e., $[P^\mu, P^\nu] = 0$, $[J^{\mu\nu}, P^\sigma] = i(g^{\mu\sigma} P^\nu - g^{\nu\sigma} P^\mu)$ and $[J^{\mu\nu}, J^{\rho\sigma}] = i(g^{\mu\rho} J^{\nu\sigma} + g^{\nu\sigma} J^{\mu\rho} - g^{\mu\sigma} J^{\nu\rho} - g^{\nu\rho} J^{\mu\sigma})$.

It takes just a few more steps to demonstrate that Θ is a tensor. Indeed, the additional equal-time commutators $[\Theta^{ij}(x^0, \vec{x}), \Theta^{00}(x^0, \vec{y})]$ and $[\Theta^{ij}(x^0, \vec{x}), \Theta^{0k}(x^0, \vec{y})]$ can also be readily evaluated by using (34) and (15). These results and (35) can be collected into

$$[P^\mu, \Theta^{\alpha\beta}] = -i \partial^\mu \Theta^{\alpha\beta} , \quad (37a)$$

$$[J^{\mu\nu}, \Theta^{\alpha\beta}] = -i (x^\nu \partial^\mu - x^\mu \partial^\nu) \Theta^{\alpha\beta} - i (\Theta^{\mu\alpha} g^{\nu\beta} + \Theta^{\mu\beta} g^{\nu\alpha} - \Theta^{\nu\alpha} g^{\mu\beta} - \Theta^{\nu\beta} g^{\mu\alpha}) , \quad (37b)$$

which are, respectively, the translation and rotation transformation laws to be obeyed by a second-rank tensor [17]. The purported proof of relativistic invariance of the quantized Schwarz-Sen theory is now complete.

What remains to be done is to demonstrate that the Coulomb gauge formulation of the quantized Schwarz-Sen theory is in fact covariant. Since translations and ordinary rotations do not destroy the Coulomb gauge condition we concentrate on Lorentz boosts. By using (36b), (34), (2b) and (13a) one finds that

$$-i [J^{0k}, A_T^{a,i}] = (x^0 \partial^k - x^k \partial^0) A_T^{a,i} - \epsilon_{ab} \epsilon^{klj} \frac{\partial^i \partial_l}{\nabla^2} A_{Tj}^b . \quad (38)$$

The term proportional to ϵ_{ab} signalizes that gauge potentials corresponding to different values of a get mixed by Lorentz boosts. This does not occur for ordinary rotations. Furthermore, the mixing term in (38) describes an operator gauge transformation, which, as one easily verifies, makes this commutator compatible with the transversality condition $\partial_i A_T^{a,i} = 0$. Hence, under Lorentz boosts, the field $A_T^{a,i}$ undergoes, besides the usual vector transformation, an operator gauge transformation which restores the Coulomb gauge in the new Lorentz frame [18].

Although this work has been entirely carried out within the Coulomb gauge, we observe that the quantized Schwarz-Sen model turned out to be a local theory fully formulated in terms of the gauge invariant fields $A_T^{a,j}$, $a = 1, 2$. Therefore, our conclusions about relativistic invariance apply equally well for all canonical gauges.

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